



**Placer County IHSS Public Authority
Advisory Committee Meeting
August 17, 2006**

Members Present: Mary DeGraaf, Diane Lester, Ruth Lindsley, Margaret Maldaner, Eula Marshall, Katie Snoberger

Members Absent: Karen Boal, Deborah Dahl, Michael Fletcher

PC Staff Present: Cheri Fairchild, Eldon Luce, Cate Lynds, Linda Mulrane

Public Present: Jeff Cowen and Tim Cooper (with PIRS)

A Quorum was established and Chairperson Katie Snoberger called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Excused Absences: A ***Motion*** was made by Mary DeGraaf; ***seconded*** by Margaret Maldaner to give Michael Fletcher a leave of absence. ***Motion approved.***

It was decided to come back to Excused Absences at the end of the meeting to allow absent members to arrive.

Members Reports/Announcements/Questions: There were no reports, announcements, or questions.

Public Comment: Jeff Cowen made an inquiry regarding the hours for IHSS consumers. He commented that consumers are getting confused. Cate Lynds explained the IHSS process regarding how social workers calculate authorized hours for tasks.

Mary reported that one of her consumers was told that her hours would be increased after she returned home from the hospital; however, the hours had not been increased. Mary stated that her consumer is quite upset regarding this issue. Cate Lynds will look into this situation.

Mary wondered if, the topic of how consumers could address a need for more hours and/or how they can ask for a reconsideration of assessed hours could be addressed in next quarter's PA Advisory Committee Newsletter. It was decided that this issue could be addressed in the newsletter.

Eldon suggested that something be put in writing regarding the informal process that consumers could follow before they have to go into the legal process of an Appeal before an Administrative Law Judge. He suggested addressing this in the Fall Newsletter.

Eldon gave an overview pertaining to the consumers authorized hours for tasks. He stated that he would like Cate to work with the PA in getting some information for consumers regarding this issue for the next newsletter. Cate gave a brief explanation of CA State Regulations for authorizing hours for consumers.

Eldon reported on new CA State Regulations regarding Hourly Task Guidelines for social workers. He explained that the Hourly Task Guidelines lists authorized tasks, as well as the range of hours that can be allocated for the tasks.

Eldon said that one of the roles of IHSS Quality Assurance (QA) is to insure that IHSS social workers are abiding by the state requirements. He stated that QA would also be going to the consumers' homes to make sure the assessment was accurate.

In response to a question regarding average authorized hours per case in Placer County, Eldon responded that he receives a monthly state report that gives the average hours per case. Eldon will bring a copy of this report to the September meeting.

Margaret asked if it was acceptable for a provider to do something for consumers "on their own time." Eldon replied that a provider could do whatever they wanted to on their own time, however, they could not claim the hours and if they were to get injured in the process, they would not be covered under Workers Compensation.

July 20, 2006 Minutes Approved: A ***Motion*** was made by Margaret Maldaner and *seconded* by Ruth Lindsley to approve the July 20, 2006 Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. ***Motion approved.***

Advisory Committee Recommendations to IHSS Supervisor: Margaret reported that the task list that providers receive along with their enrollment paperwork is not the same as the consumers (tasks are not broken down into segments). Katie suggested that the task list for providers be changed to reflect the same segment breakdowns for providers. It was also suggested to give the providers a copy of the consumer's Notice of Action (NOA). Lin will bring a copy of the providers task list to the September meeting. Eldon stated that it would be a breach of confidentiality to divulge personal information (the NOA) regarding a consumer.

Jeff Cowen (PIRS) commented that the real issue is that there are not enough hours authorized from the State to get the needed tasks done. He stated that the Public Authority's have an advocacy role, along with the independent living centers, to continue going back to the State to get them to "get real about IHSS" and get the IHSS hours and funding where they need to be.

Eldon stressed the importance of consumers having a voice with the legislature. He explained that by going to the legislature, it puts a "face" to the program in front of the legislature. He reiterated the fact that without directly hearing from consumers, some legislators may only be looking at "dollars and cents."

Revise PA Performance Measure: Eldon gave a brief overview of the PA Performance Measures Report and compared it to the year-end report (fiscal year July 2005 - June 2006). He reported that all but one measure had been exceeded. Eldon suggested that the percentage indicators for the majority of measures needed to be increased.

Eldon remarked that the members might want to re-evaluate what measures would be appropriate to keep; what measures should be revised; and are there any measures that should be added. Katie stated that they should perhaps create new measures reflecting provider satisfaction with the health benefits. She suggested that all members review the previous measures and expectations; and come with fresh ideas for the next meeting.

California IHSS Consumer Alliance (CICA) Update: There was not a report due to Michael being unable to attend the meeting. Eldon gave Katie the contact information for CICA; Katie agreed to make the contact.

CICA Survey on 1682 Funds: Eldon stated that the leadership of CICA has been in contact with the State Department of Social Services; giving their input on the issue of how Advisory Committee money can and can't be used. Eldon reported that CICA was going to issue a survey to Advisory Committees asking their opinions on this issue; he hadn't heard if the surveys were ready yet. Katie will speak to CICA for more information.

PA Managers Report

- Provider Benefits – The waiting list for benefits is growing. At this time there is an approximate wait-time of 2 to 3 months. Eldon explained how the PA manages the health benefits; he also explained the IHSS Union negotiation process that resulted in the Health Benefits.
- Provider Recruitment – PA is continuing to recruit providers. The newspaper advertisements just ran again. And, staff will be participating in job fairs, etc.
- Advisory Committee Member Recruitment – Eldon reminded everyone that there are still openings on the committee and all members should be actively trying to recruit members.

Newsletter Suggestions

- Mary commented that she had heard of a possible resource for consumers called "Response Link." Mary will contact Lin with the information to put in the newsletter.
- Eldon would like our response to the Governor's order regarding the heat wave to be mentioned in the newsletter. Eldon reported the actions that Placer County IHSS/PA took to insure that our consumers were safe.
- PIRS has many programs open to seniors and disabled consumers:
 - 1) "Consumer Disability Support Group - Wednesday's from 1 – 3 at PIRS
 - 2) "Fix-It" Program for seniors 60 and older (just getting started)
 - 3) Programs to help consumers find affordable housing

Excused Absences (cont): It was decided to cover the excused absences for both meetings (August 17th and September 21st) in the September 21st meeting.

Agenda Items for next meeting

- Statewide IHSS Report
- Ethics Training
- NOA's
- Performance Measure Goals & Ideas (Possible measure on Health Benefits)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00.

The next Advisory Committee Meeting

**September 21, 2006
The Domes, Conference Room A, Fulweiler**